THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Government is keen to put an end to militancy and restore normalcy in the State, at the earliest. In order to bring the misguided youth into the mainstream efforts are being made to create more employment opportunities for them. Discussions were recently held with various Government Agencies in this regard. Steps have also been taken to reactivate the industrial economic and developmental activities in the State. Discussions were recently held in Delhi and Srinagar with various Central and State Government Departments and officials with a view to achieving these objectives. Efforts are also being made to activate the local Administration and the grievance redressal machinery. All these initiatives have had a positive impact. At the same time pressure is being mounted on the militants to reduce the fear of the gun. Significant successes have been achieved in this regard during the past few months.

Demand of rupees one thousand crore by Haryana for its new capital

357. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haryana Government have demanded one thousand crores of rupees for the development of its new capital in Panchkula;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the amount demanded would be adequate enough to complete the construction work keeping in view the annual rate of inflation at around ten per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Flaring of Gas

358. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas being flared in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether Government have carried out a comparative study of loss due to gas flaring;

(c) if so, the results of the study; and

(d) the plan of Government to reduce flaring of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) In 1991-92 and 1992-93 approximately 11.2 MMSCMD and 5.08 MMSCMD respectively of gas was flared.

(b) and (c) At the relevant selling prices of gas, the estimated loss due to flaring was approximately Rs. 520 crores and Rs. 225 crores respectively.

(d) Additional compression and transportation facilities in the Western offshore region, in Gujarat and in Assam; underground storage of gas in Assam; and increased utilisation of gas by consumers to whom gas has been allocated in Assam are some of the steps being taken to reduce the flaring of gas.

Import of Gas from West Asia

359. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan is under Government's consideration to import gas from West Asia;

(b) if so what are the reasons for import of gas when a large quantity of gas is being flared up daily: